

**Memorandum of Understanding
Between
The National Science Foundation and
The U.S. Geological Survey
Regarding
Cooperation in Development and Support of Research Activities, Facilities,
Education and Outreach**

The National Science Foundation (NSF) and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) share interests and complementary responsibilities for the support of research, operation of research facilities, and education and outreach within the United States and throughout the world.

Intent of Parties

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to encourage and support interaction among the USGS and NSF personnel and the sharing of information about project activities and areas of mutual interest. This MOU is intended to provide a structure through which the USGS and NSF personnel can coordinate the development and support of research activities and facilities.

Authorities

This MOU is authorized by the NSF Act of 1950, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 1861 et seq., and by the USGS Organic Act of 1879 as amended, 43 U.S.C. 31 et seq.

Duration of Agreement

This MOU shall remain in effect for 5 years from the date of the last signature to this MOU, unless terminated earlier by the parties. Subject to the written approval of the NSF and the USGS, this MOU may be renewed and/or modified.

Termination of Agreement

This MOU can be terminated with 90 days advance written notice of termination by either party, or sooner by mutual written consent of both parties.

Modification Provisions

This MOU can be modified at any time by mutual written agreement of both parties.

Non-Fund Obligating Document

Nothing in this MOU may be construed to obligate the NSF or USGS to any current or future expenditure of resources in advance of the availability of appropriations. Nor does this MOU obligate the NSF or USGS to spend funds on any particular project or purpose, even if funds are available.

Scope of Agreement

This MOU outlines areas of mutual interest and the general guidelines for interaction. It is not intended to cover all areas of mutual interest. Subject to the availability of funds and agreement of both parties, interagency agreements (i.e. annexes) may be developed pursuant to this MOU to provide details for specific areas of cooperation and commitment of resources. Each Annex shall describe an area of mutual interest between the NSF and the USGS, the responsibilities and mode of

interaction between the parties, the structure for funding and management, and reporting requirements.

The areas covered by this agreement can include coordination of specific projects, programs, and facilities. The specific coordination may include research, education, and outreach activities; observing facilities and instrumentation; and data and cyberinfrastructure.

In areas involving the review of research proposals, proposed projects, or proposed programs requesting NSF financial support, the NSF merit review process will govern. For publications, the review process for each agency will govern. For mutual publications, both agencies will review the publication and arrive at a mutual understanding. The Principal Representatives for the activities under this agreement shall be the Director of the USGS and the Director of the NSF. Principal Representatives shall identify appropriate agency staff for the implementation of joint activities and the exchange of information about other opportunities for interagency cooperation.

Approvals:

Signature on File

Mark D. Myers
Director, U.S. Geological Survey

Date: 3/09/07

Signature on File

Arden L. Bement, Jr.
Director, National Science Foundation

Date: 3/09/07